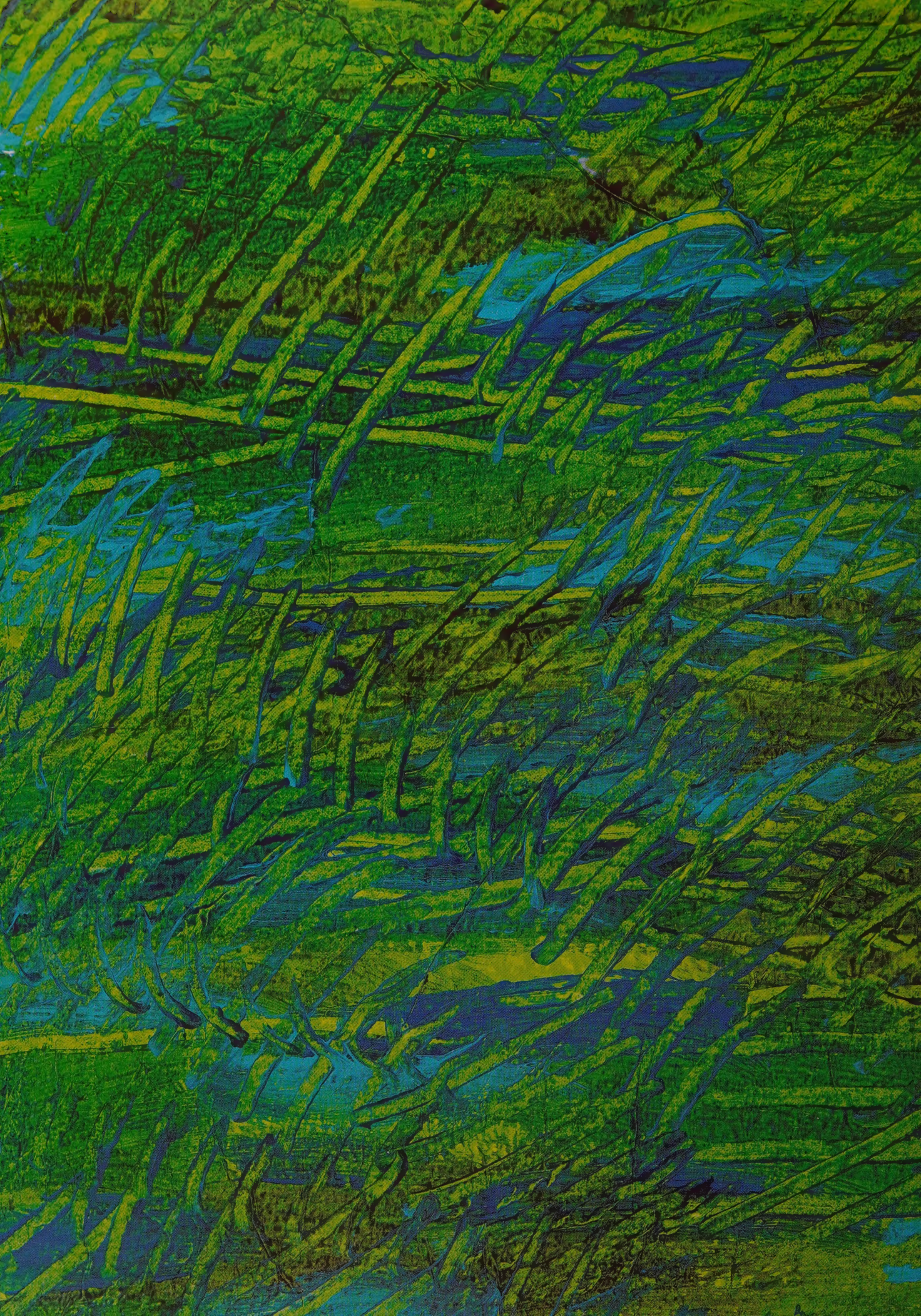
The Mixed-Up Chameleon

by Eric Carle

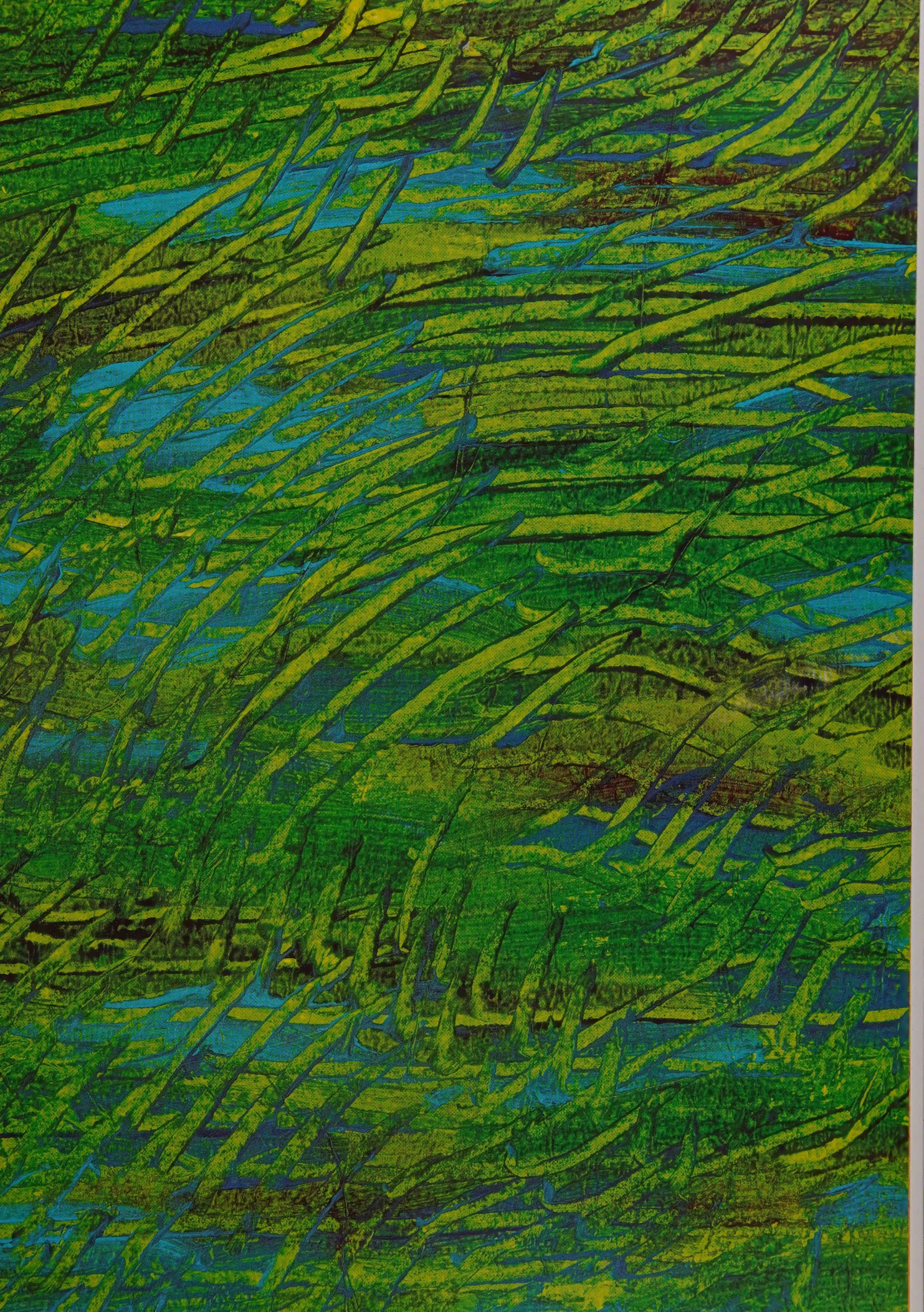


What do zoo animals eat to keep them feeling good?

"The chameleon's life was not very exciting until the day it discovered it could change not only its color but its shape and size, too. When it saw the wonderful animals in the zoo, it immediately wanted to be like them — and ended up like all of them at once — with hilarious results."

You'll discover that many of them eat fruit because it helps keep them healthy! And guess what? It can help keep you healthy too!

When it comes to fruit, raisins are tops! Naturally fat and cholesterol free, Sun-Maid® raisins provide a delicious and nutritious way to add fruit to your diet. Grab a handful (about a ¼ cup) for a serving of fruit.



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by Eric Carle

HarperCollins*Publishers*

Dedicated to all the children who have worked with me on this book.

On a shiny green leaf sat a small green chameleon.
It moved onto a brown tree and turned brownish.
Then it rested on a red flower and turned reddish.
When the chameleon moved slowly across the yellow sand,
it turned yellowish. You could hardly see it.

When the chameleon was warm and had something to eat, it turned sparkling green.

But when it was cold and hungry,
it turned grey and dull.

When the chameleon was hungry,
it sat still and waited.
Only its eyes moved—up, down, sideways—
until it spotted a fly.
Then the chameleon's long and sticky tongue
shot out and caught the fly.
That was its life.
It was not very exciting.
But one day...

...the chameleon saw a zoo!
It had never seen so many beautiful animals.

ZOO

The chameleon thought:
How small I am, how slow, how weak!
I wish I could be big and white like a polar bear.
And the chameleon's wish came true.
But was it happy?
No!

I wish I could be handsome like a flamingo.

I wish I could be smart like a fox.

I wish I could swim like a fish.

I wish I could run like a deer.

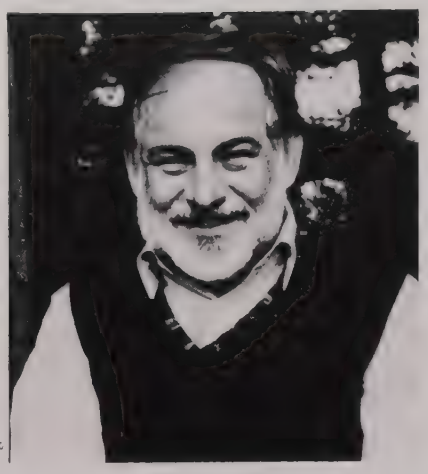
I wish I could see things far away like a giraffe.

I wish I could hide in a shell like a turtle.

I wish I could be strong like an elephant.

I wish I could be funny like a seal.

I wish I could be myself.
The chameleon's wish came true.
And it caught the fly!



Sigrid Estrada

Eric Carle says that this book had hundreds of co-authors: the children in many schools in all parts of the United States and Europe where the author-artist has visited. "The children are interested to see how a book is made, the technical aspects, from original drawing to printed page. But I always stress that what is more important than the mechanics of production is the idea, imagination, what-you-feel, what-you-think," says Mr. Carle. Together with the children, he "works" on a book about favorite animals. The children make suggestions. Mr. Carle draws. Requests and instructions come in so fast that there is little time to finish drawing an animal. Only the most characteristic parts are drawn. These parts are then strung together. The more mixed-up the animal becomes, the more hilarious is the audience.

Occasionally, Eric Carle goes to a zoo to sketch the animals from life. Once, watching an iridescent chameleon sitting on a twig, motionless except for its jewellike eyes, he began to wonder, "What if the chameleon could change more than just its color?"

Slowly the experience with the children and the observation of the chameleon merged. The mixed-up chameleon was born.

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Summary: A bored chameleon wishes it could be more like all the other animals it sees, but soon decides it would rather be itself.
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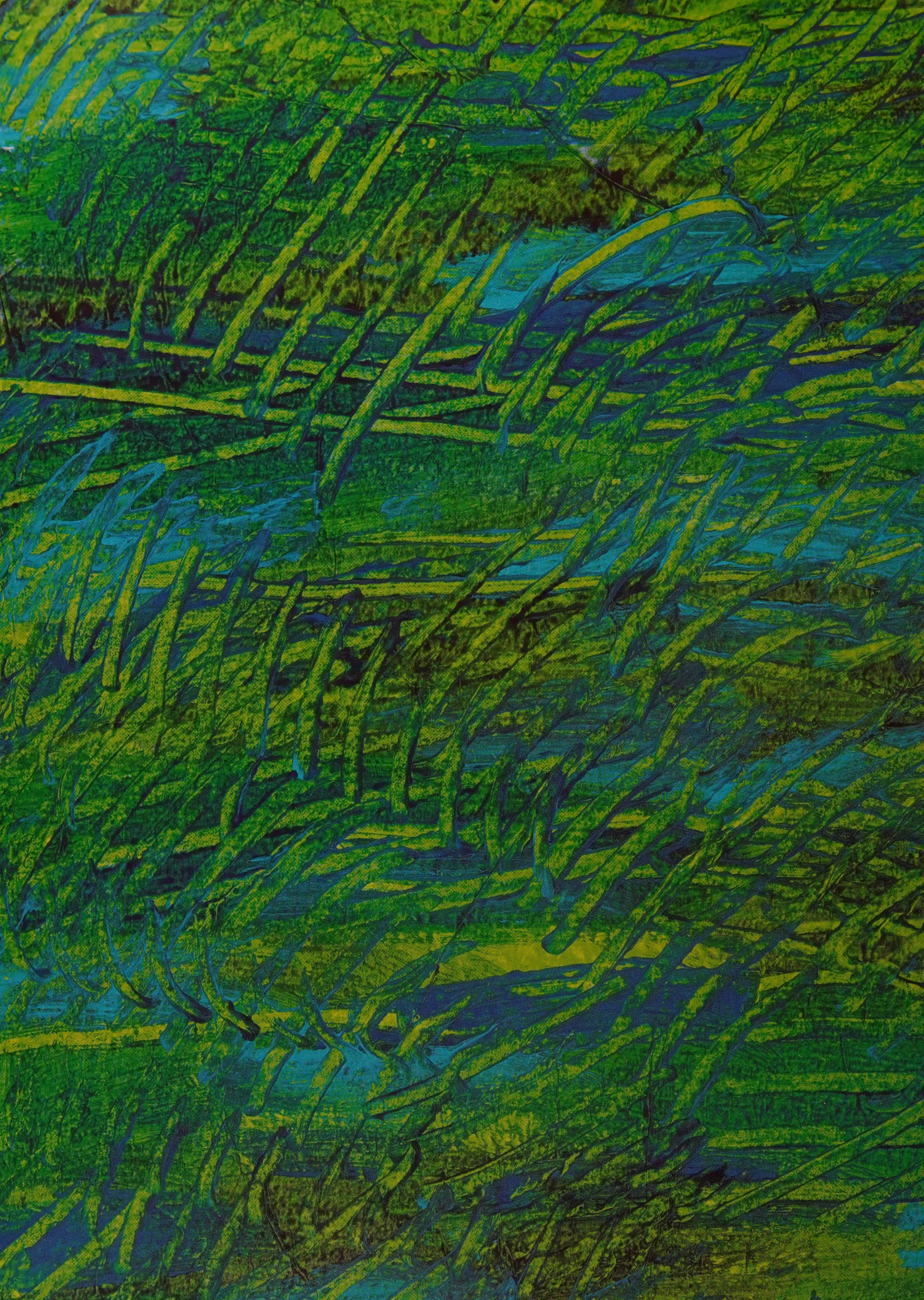

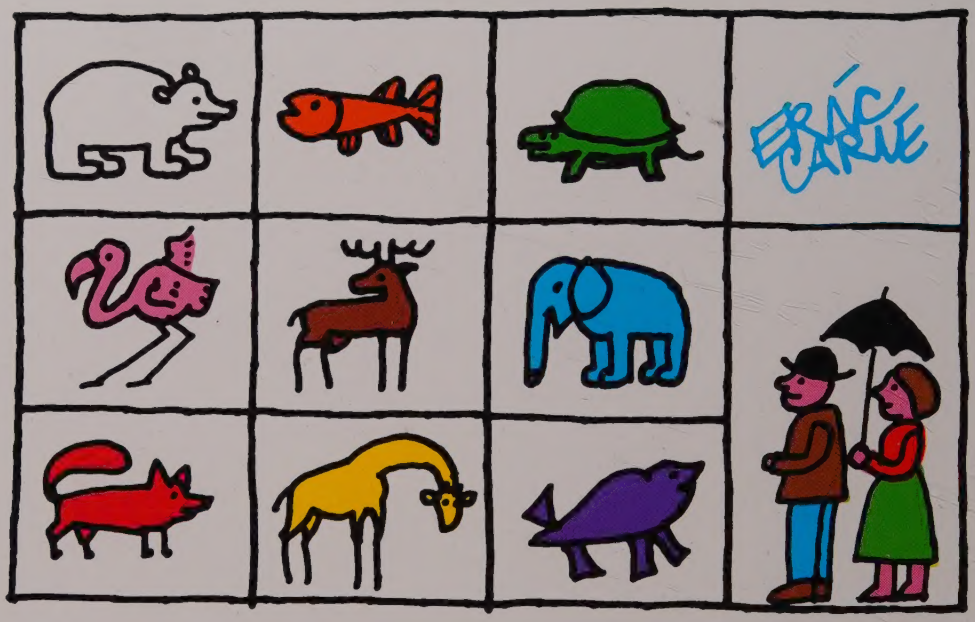

the world of ERIC CARLE

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